Sister Peg Regan, SSND
Executive Director

From Our House to Yours

Caroline House gives hope.

Caroline House Mission Statement
To enable women and children to reach the fullness of their potential through education in English language and life skills.

For over 18 years, Caroline House has successfully taught immigrant women English as a Second Language (ESL). Caroline House also provides a free preschool, after-school and summer tutoring to elementary and middle school children, citizenship classes, and life skills classes.

The number one gift Caroline House gives to its students is HOPE — hope for a better future for themselves and their families.

As they were walking up the steps on the first day of school, Caroline House students were asked about their hopes for learning English:

♦ I hope to get my GED. — Miriam
♦ I hope to help my children with their homework. — Pauline
♦ I hope to talk to my children’s doctor. — Emma
♦ I hope to go back to my country (Honduras) and help the children with their English education. — Iris
♦ I hope to become an LPN and help my family’s future. — Claudia
♦ I hope to go to work to help my son. — Maria

It is good to be back after a peaceful summer. The time was especially enriching for the young people who participated in the Summer School Program, both students and tutors. We are especially grateful to Diane Johnson, Mary Carroll, Wendy Kann and Kate Ordway for their expertise and direction. Jean Fredricks planned a kindergarten prep course for 3-4 of the kids who were leaving Caroline House’s preschool. Word got out and Jean, Nina and other volunteers ended up with 21 kids! Truly a blessing for all concerned.

Thanks to some generous volunteers, we also had some special students being tutored this summer: a family of teens and a mom who had just arrived from Honduras, a CNA student and a medical doctor who are learning English. Special thanks to Cindy, Pat and Jerry, and Sister Lorraine.

Once again we are grateful for the SHU students who showed up to help set up our rooms for the fall semester, and some have returned to volunteer with the kids’ programs.

We had a small fundraiser in September: Rock and Brews, which turned out to be fun as well as educational! (Yes, educational. Guests were offered a tour of the Brewery!) Hopefully we can do it again next year.

We’ve started again with more than 95 women. It is crowded, but joyful. And we have a waiting list! We hope that you’ll have a chance to stop by and visit us and catch the special spirit that pervades Caroline House. It’s catching! Thank you for making it a reality for so many women and youngsters.

Sister Peg’s Perspective

Scan this QR code to visit our website — get the latest info about programs & volunteer opportunities, register for events, and more!
A Source of Inspiration

Caroline House has recently instituted a Sources of Inspiration Board. These women will serve as a resource for Caroline House students and all of us for inspirational stories to give hope for the future. We are honored to have Jannned Serrano as our first Sources of Inspiration Board member. She is Executive Assistant to Cindi Bigelow, President of Bigelow Tea, and Community Relations Coordinator.

Jannned Serrano (right) with daughter Andrea Guealeno.

Caroline House Student Spotlight

At the recommendation of Sister Connie, Miriam is in the Caroline House “Student Spotlight.” Sister Connie says Miriam is a focused student, asks lots of questions, helps other students, completes extra homework and takes two buses to come to Caroline House! Miriam is learning English primarily due to the urging of her 7 year son. “Mommy, why don’t you learn English? Mommy doing homework with you takes too long!” Miriam wants her children to go to college and be professionals. Miriam’s short-term goal is to learn enough English to going from being a busser to a waitress at the restaurant where she currently is employed.

Thank you to the following Caroline House Supporters!
All gifts listed below were received between 07/01/2012 and 06/30/2013.
Thank you to the following Caroline House Supporters!
All gifts listed below were received between 07/01/2012 and 06/30/2013.

Carolyn House Appreciates YOU!

Why We Give to Carolyn House...
Cathy and Steven April are valued members of the Caroline House community. Cathy is a devoted tutor in our children’s program. Steven advocates for our mission as a Board member of the William T. Morris Foundation, a generous grant supporter of the Child and Literacy Program. The April children are also part of our community. Inspired by his tutoring experience, Joe is majoring in childhood special education. Cathey is a devoted tutor in our children’s program.

FALL 2013

Fairfield University Bookstore recently hosted a book drive and donated over 1,000 books for the Caroline House Preschool.

Thank you to Trifinity of Fairfield for supporting Caroline House through its July 4, 2013 Kids’ Triathlon. Follow other “athletic” events at www.thecarolinehouse.org.

Why “Our family is grateful to Caroline House for providing a safe, nurturing environment for our children and women. Women expand their knowledge as they work toward achieving educational goals in ESL classes. They also improve the quality of their lives in the life skills program.

“For children, the after-school program provides an opportunity to receive one-on-one tutoring and encouragement to improve reading, writing and math skills. It is a privilege to be a part of this community, and it truly takes a community to help make a difference.”

- Cathy and Steven April

Joe, Liz, Allison, Steven & April

Preschool Director Jean Fredricks with Caroline House preschooler (and triathlete) Jonathan.
The Children’s Corner

Don’t go to the store and buy carrots—just buy carrot seeds, take them to the garden at Caroline House and have Liza help you plant them. Then wait and wait until you think they are never going to grow. Go home for the summer, and when you come back in September you’ll find big carrots! (see below for a yummy recipe)

Eric Carle is back! The children are working on “Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?” They have cut out and decorated the brown bear and red bird, and yellow duck is next.

Miah: “I decorated my bear with eyelashes and gave him fancy shoes.”

Kevin: “I put red feathers on my bird and brown fur on the bear and an eye.”

Eight of our children are going into our small room to work on art, history, reading, math, science and writing. Our younger children are working on language, colors, shapes and making friends. The staff is busy practicing charades and pantomime to relate to our little ones who speak only Haitian Creole, French or Spanish.

Part of each day is spent outside bike riding, sliding, and using the crocodile seesaw. Chasing bubbles is always a favorite, and our young artists are often busy decorating the backyard with chalk drawings. Many of our wonderful volunteers have returned; there are not adequate words to thank them for all they do.

The room has a great new look. The children decided not to tell you about it...you’ll have to come and see!

Miss Jean’s Recipe: Sweet Cooked Carrots

Peel, wash and cut your freshly picked carrots.
Boil the carrots to desired softness.
Drain the water, add butter and honey.
Gobble away!

Spring & Summer Highlights

Oh, What a Starry Night!

On April 26, 2013 Caroline House hosted its first annual Starry Night event to raise funds for the Mother and Child Literacy Program. That evening Caroline House honored Robert Marrzik, Esq. and Cecelia Campbell (posthumously) for their many contributions to the Caroline House mission. Special thanks to our fantastic committee and the many people who joined this affair to support Caroline House.

The Lion and the Mouse Makes its Caroline House Debut

Summer School learning is a BLAST at the Caroline House Summer Program. 70 volunteers from all over Fairfield and New Haven counties along with 33 Bridgeport children had three weeks of fun, fun, fun, and lots of math and reading as well. The highlight of the program was a series of plays produced by the volunteers and children. Resident Great Arts instructors, Kate Ordway and Wendy Kunn, used Aesop’s The Lion and the Mouse to highlight an important lesson.

Mouse: Great King, what happened?

Lion: Oh, Mouse, go away! I am trapped by my own pride.

Mouse: But all creatures - large and small - must help each other. I will use my tiny teeth to break this net and give you your freedom, even as you had done for me before.

Lion: Oh, Mouse, thank you, thank you! All my strength could not have freed me, but your kindness and persistence did! From now on, I will be good to all the animals in the jungle and recognize that each creature - large and small - has a special gift that can be used to help each other.

Through this story, the children learned that it is good and right to ask for help! Your continued support is what keeps all of our wonderful programs thriving and we again ask you for that continued help; please consider making a donation today to the Caroline House. Please find an attached envelope for your convenience or make a donation on-line at www.thecarolinehouse.org.